



# WAIROA IN FOCUS

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Wairoa Mayor Craig Little

## FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

It is fantastic to see Wairoa people and organisations working together to overcome our hurdles.

A prime example is the effort being invested into solving Wairoa's aged residential care challenges.

As most people are aware, Wairoa has had no aged care facility, respite care or IHC facility since Cyclone Gabrielle.

For three long years, we have been advocating for the support we deserve and need, and finally, it is encouraging to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

This glimmer of hope has been driven by community leaders around the Wairoa Community Partnership Group, who have contributed towards what we hope will be a positive outcome. This behind-the-scenes work has included lobbying at a Ministerial level, united advocacy and a real push from our local organisations and health providers, in particular

Lewis Ratapu – Chief Executive of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa.

You may have seen the TV1 Q+A with Jack Tame episode on how Wairoa is working towards an aged care solution ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYjEiilZt0A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYjEiilZt0A)). Following on from that programme, we will now all continue to push to establish an aged residential care facility in Wairoa. We have identified locations, we have the support of an amazing not-for-profit provider, and we are growing our own workforce. With establishment and ongoing operational support from the Central Government, we will be able to make this a reality and be proud to be driving a homegrown solution.

Thank you to those people who have been supporting this. Elderly health care is not specifically within any of our lanes, but this group is driven by a desire to do the very best for Wairoa, and I thank you all for your input.

Part of growing our frontline health workforce included the recent opening of the Wairoa Rural Training Hub.

Associate Health Minister Matt Doocoy came to Wairoa for the launch, which he described as the Government's commitment to fixing the basics and building the future for the one in five New Zealanders who live in rural communities. He said Kiwis should have access to timely, quality care, wherever they live.

Rural Training Hubs aim to attract and retain frontline health workers in rural communities by coordinating clinical placements, training pathways, and pastoral support. In a nutshell, it's about bringing health worker education closer to home.

The Wairoa Rural Training Hub is the second of four hubs being rolled out nationally, following the first in South Taranaki. It will be co-designed with local communities, iwi, and health providers.

Again, thank you to everyone who has been a part of bringing this proactive solution to Wairoa.

buildings that were there before.

The architects of the complex are local couple Matteo Garbagnati and Gabriela Kopacikova of the Collaborative Projects Studio, who, along with other partners and community input, created a design that wove the old with the new, providing our town with an area we can all be proud of.

There are 16 projects shortlisted for the 2026 Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Regional Architecture Awards, with the winners announced on Friday, May 1.



Locally based architects Gabriela Kopacikova and Matteo Garbagnati (pictured left) with the 2026 Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Regional Architecture Awards judging panel.

## MAIN STREET DEVELOPMENT SHORTLISTED

It is exciting to have the Te Wairoa e Whanake, Ahi Kōmau Gemmill's on Parade and Wairoa Visitor Information Centre re-development shortlisted in the 2026 Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Regional Architecture Awards.

Last week, the judging panel visited the main street site, and it was great to present them with such a fantastic-looking complex. This area has modernised Marine Parade, and the transformation is quite amazing compared to the burnt-out, unused

## Catch up with Mayor Craig Kanohi ki te Kanohi Face to Face

If you have anything you would like to discuss with the Mayor, please call the council offices on 06 838 7309 to arrange a meeting time. The Mayor is available to meet on Wednesdays or by appointment.

## CUPPA & KORERO

Wairoa District Council are holding Cuppa & Korero Sessions.

We would love for you to come along and share your aspirations and explore how Council might be able to support your community.



## Frasertown

Tuesday 31 March  
5:30 - 7pm  
Pakowhai Marae

## 25 April 2026 ANZAC DAY WAIROA

**5:45am**  
**Kaiuku Marae Dawn Service**  
Mahia East Coast Road | Mahia

**8:30am**  
**Taihoa Marae Service**  
State Highway 2 | Wairoa

**10:00am**  
**Frasertown Civic Service**  
Carroll Street | Frasertown

**5:45am**  
**Mohaka Marae Dawn Service**  
Mohaka Township Road | Mohaka

**11:45am**  
**Wairoa Civic Service**  
Wairoa War Memorial Hall | Wairoa



Acknowledgements to Wairoa artist Chance Rohe, who designed the graphics in this banner.

KORERO FROM THE ARTIST: Kei Wareware Tātau - the imagery used in the poppy graphic above is derived from conversations I've heard and had about our Tipuna who fought in the World Wars. The Māori Battalion. Kōrero tuku iho heavily aligned to us and how we are a result of their sacrifice. We shall never take life for granted. We shall never forget. Your sacrifice, created my future. Thank you.

## Council Meetings

### Council Forum

Tuesday, April 7, 10am

### Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, April 7, 1pm

### Environment & Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, April 14, 1pm

### Māori Standing Committee

Tuesday, April 28, 1pm

### Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee

Wednesday, April 29, 1pm

Please note that the Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee meetings have been rescheduled for the year. Please see [www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/meetings](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/meetings) for updated meeting dates.

## The GAIETY Now Showing March 26 - April 2

### Holy Days

PG | 1hr 41m

Thursday 26th March 5.30pm

### Ready or Not 2: Here I come

R16 | 1hr 44m

Friday 27th March 5.30pm

### Scream 7

R16 | 1hr 54m

Friday 27th March 8pm

### Hoppers PREMIERE

PG | 1hr 45m

Saturday 28th March 2pm

Sunday 29th March 11.30am

### Project Hail Mary

M | 2hr 36m

Saturday 28th March 5.30pm

### The Magic Faraway Tree PREMIERE

G | 1hr 50m

Sunday 29th March 2pm

### Epic: Elvis Presley in Concert

PG | 1hr 36m

Wednesday 1st April 5.30pm

### The Super Mario Galaxy Movie PREMIERE

TBC | 1hr 38m

Thursday 2nd April 5.30pm

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